



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

AUGUST 19, 2004
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NORTH KANSAS CITY MAN SENTENCED FOR CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a North Kansas City, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for the possession, receipt and transportation of child pornography.

John A. Schafer, 59, of North Kansas City, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this morning to 11 years and five months in federal prison without parole, to be served consecutively to a state sentence of life in prison plus seven years. The court provided an alternative sentence, in the event that the federal sentencing guidelines are found to be unconstitutional, of 15 years in federal prison without parole (also to be served consecutively to the state sentence). The court also ordered **Schafer** to forfeit to the government two computers, along with six hard drives and other hardware and software, two scanners, a motion picture projector, and numerous floppy disks containing child pornography.

Graves noted that the court granted the government's motion for an upward departure from the federal sentencing guidelines, which otherwise would have provided a maximum sentence of five years and 11 months in prison.

"The horrendous nature of this case certainly justified a lengthy sentence," Graves said. "**Schafer** is an admitted pedophile who has been addicted to child pornography for 30 years and accumulated thousands of images of child porn on his computer. Even worse, he acted out those impulses by molesting young children. Our community is safer with him behind bars."

According to Graves, federal investigators discovered more than 7,000 images of child pornography on computer hard drives that were seized by agents while executing a search warrant at **Schafer's** residence on March 27, 2003. "We believe there were even more images of child porn on those hard drives," Graves said, "but after investigators found in excess of 7,000 images, they quit counting."

Investigators also discovered 17 movie files that were downloaded to **Schafer's** computer in February 2003. Federal agents also seized numerous photographs, magazines, floppy disks and CD-ROMS containing child pornography from **Schafer's** home.

Graves said he was pleased that the court ordered **Schafer's** federal sentence to run consecutively to his sentence from Jackson County Circuit Court on 34 charges related to child molestation.

"We felt it was important for the federal sentence to run consecutively to his state sentence," Graves said. "We don't know when he might be paroled on the state charges, but at the federal level there is no parole. Today's sentence guarantees that **Schafer** will be locked up, and our community will be protected from him, for many years."

On Feb. 4, 2004, **Schafer** pleaded guilty to all counts of a federal indictment returned on Oct. 23, 2003. **Schafer** admitted that he e-mailed a visual depiction of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct on Aug. 5, 2000. **Schafer** also admitted that he used his computer to download a visual depiction of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct on Feb. 4, 2003. **Schafer** admitted that he was in possession of one or more films, videotapes, and other matter which contained visual depictions of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct on March 28, 2003.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David M. Ketchmark and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew P. Wolesky. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow